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WEEKLY STATION REPORTS

OF THE DIVISION OF

DRY LAND AGRICULTURE

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Not for publication without
prior consent of this division.

REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1932.

HAVRE:

The month of November was about normal as to temperatures. Precipitation amounted to 0.32 inches compared to a normal of 0.62 inch. Snow fell on the 12th and remained on the ground for a few days. The total snowfall for the month amounted to 6.1 inches. Wind velocity was rather high, especially between the 4th and 8th, on the 24th, and on the 30th when the 2-foot anemometer registered 18.6 miles per hour and soil on fallow fields moved to some extent. Chinook winds were quite pronounced during the month.

Winter wheat is in good condition on the rotations. That seeded on October 15 in the date-of-seeding test came up early in November. Winter rye has made a good growth and is vigorous in appearance. Range conditions were generally favorable with the exception of a few days when there was a snow cover. Native grass cured well, and with a good supply of stored feed, conditions are favorable for livestock. The shipping from this section was less than last year, estimated at about 60 per cent due to the low market. Hogging down experiments were completed during the month, with very satisfactory results from Gehu corn. Fifteen lots of cattle are being started for the winter feeding period, mostly on maintenance and nutrition rations.

Maximum temperature, 60°; minimum, -10°.

JUDITH BASIN:

The weather during November was unsettled with several light falls of snow and considerable wind. Soil moisture conditions at the end of the month are fair, and winter wheat is in better condition than for several years. The weather during the last week of the month has been unusually warm with temperatures ranging up to 64°. There was some soil blowing on two days of the month. Corn fodder was hauled and weighed. Yields were much below average.

Maximum temperature, 64°; minimum, 2°; precipitation, 0.51 inch, all of which came as snow.

HUNTLEY:

The month as a whole was fairly open and mild. Precipitation was below normal and was largely confined to rain and snow on the 7th and 8th. Light snow flurries and sprinkles of rain were received at other times, but the amount was not sufficient to halt field work.

The condition of winter wheat improved slowly during November, but the growth on most fields is still below the average for this time of year. Moisture conditions appear to be ample for the seedling crop, and the lack of growth can be attributed only to low soil temperatures.

The precipitation during October, together with alternate freezing and thawing during November, cracked and broke up the clods on the fall-plowed land so that it was possible to level off the plots with a harrow. Other field work for the month consisted of husking corn and hauling off the fodder; threshing soybeans, alfalfa seed, Sudan grass, and sorgo; repairing fence; and raking and burning weeds.

Maximum temperature, 68°; minimum, 3°; precipitation, 0.31 inch.

SHERIDAN:

For the first three weeks of the month the weather was not favorable for field work. Snow or cold cloudy weather made it impossible to do much outside work other than hauling shale and preparing corrals for the wintering of stock. Fields were sufficiently dry on the 26th to rake and burn thistles on the rotations. Plowing of the pastures was begun on the 28th and completed on the 30th. It is hoped that this weather will continue a few more days in order to finish plowing Field O. The station in general has been cleaned of Russian thistles, and these have been burned. The last remaining plots of Minnesota Amber sorgo were weighed but contained considerable moisture. Samples were saved to determine moisture content.

Maximum temperature, 63°; minimum, 6°; precipitation, 0.50 inch.

DICKINSON:

Precipitation in November was 0.45 inch, which brings the total in 1932 to 16.54 inches, approximately an inch above the normal for the full year. The mean temperature for the month was slightly below normal, owing to a cold spell near the middle of the month when -16° was recorded. Several days were unsettled and blustery, but the weather was mild and pleasant near the end of the month. The heavy October snow has gone except for occasional drifts. Although the ground froze about the 10th, there is yet very little frost in the soil.

Winter wheat and rye are still in good condition and made some little growth during the month. As indicated by letters received more interest is being shown in Crested wheatgrass than in any other phase of station work. Inquiries have come from eleven states and Canada. Nearly half of the station seed delivered to date has gone outside the State.

MANDAN:

Agronomy: Most of the last half of November was unusually mild. The maximum temperature on Thanksgiving day was 57°, which is the highest temperature for a Thanksgiving day since the station started in 1913.

The 1932 corn crop was slightly above average in yield. The following yields are in bushels per acre for the 1932 crop: Spring plowing, 32.7; fall plowing, 29.7; subsoiled, 27.0; listed, 23.4; and summer fallow, 26.4. The average yield was 31.3. Continuous cropping of corn was low as compared with other methods. The average of four plots was 27.3 bushels per acre. The south field continuous cropping corn was better than the same method in the main field, which is unusual.

The precipitation for November was 0.19 inch. The total for the year to November 30 is 15.58 inches, as compared with the 55-year mean of 16.32 inches.

Arboriculture: The cleaning and stratifying of all tree seed was completed during the month. Broken branch stubs, caused by the sleet storm in October, have been trimmed off and hauled away. Of the 339 applications received June 1, 1932, for cooperative shelter belt plantings next spring, 176 have been approved at the present time. Ninety-two of the remainder have been postponed for planting in the spring of 1934, and 45 were canceled. Disposition has not been made of the 26 remaining applications. They are all from farmers in South Dakota and Wyoming who were not visited by inspectors last summer, and who, at the present time, have failed to reply to several letters requesting information relative to the proposed planting.

Horticulture: A considerable number of small trees have been wrapped with burlap to protect them from rabbits. Continuous shooting is also being done to keep the pest in check. So far this winter but little damage has been done. Small fruits have been pruned as time and weather permitted. This work is almost finished now. The results of the vegetable breeding projects have been checked up and a number of selections made of melons, tomatoes, and sweet corn. The greenhouse is under repair. The Japanese hybrid plums showed up to better advantage than in previous years. The four highest yielding varieties of plums are all Japanese hybrids.

BELLE FOURCHE:

The first half of November was comparatively cold and windy, but the latter part of the month was unusually mild and calm. The recent warm weather has enabled fall grain to resume growth. Winter wheat and rye have emerged satisfactorily on most plots, and the stands are steadily improving where the grain has been more backward. Jack-rabbits, however, are beginning to do considerable damage to winter wheat. High winds during the forepart of November caused a small amount of soil blowing, and soil conditions have since become much more favorable for drifting to take place if strong winds occur. Roads on the dry-land rotation field were duckfooted to retard soil blowing; all uncropped fallow, green manure, corn, sorgo, and potato plots were duckfooted; and a number of the roads and alleyways were listed. Soil samples taken November 22 on plots cropped to spring wheat in 1932 show that the moisture content of the first and second feet of soil has increased 6.6 per cent and 3.2 per cent, respectively, since the date of harvesting spring wheat. More moisture is present in the soil than there has been at the close of the season in either of the two previous years, and crop prospects are more encouraging.

Maximum temperature, 69°; minimum, 7°; precipitation, .07 inch.

ARDMORE:

November was above normal in temperature and wind velocity, and much below normal in precipitation. There were no extremes of temperature. Wind velocities were particularly high during the first half of the month. The amount of moisture received as not sufficient to cause further germination of fall-sown grains, and these will go into the winter with a poor stand.

The operation of the station was taken over by the Bureau of Animal Industry about November 10. A. L. Baker, formerly in charge of Beef Cattle Investigations at the U. S. Livestock Range Station at Miles City, Montana, is the new superintendent. O. R. Mathews left for Washington on November 11. V. I. Clark remains at Ardmore to take care of matters pertaining to the Bureau of Plant Industry. The Bureau of Animal Industry is placing a foundation herd of 13 red poll cattle on the station.

Maximum temperature, 73°; minimum, 12°; precipitation, 0.09 inch; wind velocity, 6.7 miles per hour.

ARCHER:

The weather, for the most part, has been mild and dry. The past month was the driest November in the history of the station, there being only traces of precipitation recorded. The total precipitation for the year to date is 9.66 inches. These conditions have been favorable for livestock, in that no feeding has been necessary, but they have been unfavorable for winter cereals.

Work at the station has consisted of building the new granary and moving and reconstructing some of the smaller buildings. The new granary is 32 by 48 feet with loft and full basement. All outside work on this building is practically complete. The cement floor of the basement and the floor of the main room remain to be put down.

AKRON:

Weather in October and November was very favorable for completing the field work. The increase in the scope of the work with beans, the hay and the grain millets, the grain and forage sorghums, and corn made such weather very acceptable.

Fall-seeded wheat is not generally promising. A rather small acreage was seeded by the farmers in this locality. Wheat on the station is attempting to make some progress, especially on fallow land preparation. The fall was especially unfavorable for winter wheat, as the precipitation was only 59 per cent of normal in August, 3 per cent in September, 43 per cent in October, and 33 per cent in November. The lambs on feed made very satisfactory gains during their first 30-day period.

NORTH PLATTE:

The month of November was warm, dry, and open. No precipitation was recorded. The lowest temperature was 14°. The mean was 40° which is 3.4° above normal. Most of the winter wheat germinated following the rain of October 22, but only about 50 per cent has emerged, and the growth is too small to furnish any protection against soil blowing. The top soil is again very dry, but most plowed ground is rough enough to afford protection unless wind velocities are unusually high. The open weather has permitted repair work to continue on the roadways that were badly washed out last summer. Bromegrass sod has been used in making the fills. It is hoped that there will be sufficient moisture in the winter and spring for this to become established and furnish protection from washing in the future. A manuscript covering the work done on the two oldest crop rotation fields from their beginning to 1931, inclusive, has been approved for publication as a State bulletin and is now in the hands of the reading committee.

COLBY:

The drought continues unrelieved. Most of the month the weather was fair and not very cold with occasional high winds. The winter wheat is going into the winter in a condition even more precarious than that of last fall. Very little of it came up, except that on summer fallow. None of it has made enough growth to show above the drill ridges, and nearly all of that has been eaten to the ground by rabbits and grasshoppers. Soil sampling last week showed the surface soil to be dry in all the plots and the subsoil dry in all but the fallow plots. The soil is not only dry, but hard. The surface soil is in ideal condition to blow readily on all plots. Except where drilled in stubble or in corn stalks, the wheat is unprotected against the wind. There is no vegetation, and the surface is dry, loose, and pulverized. To protect the plots against blowing, a listed furrow has been run in each alley and along each edge and through the center of each roadway. The space between the lister furrows in the roadways was ridged with a furrow drill, as were also all the fallow plots which were not seeded to winter wheat. The ground was so hard that the lister beam was twisted so that it had to be straightened twice before the job was finished.

Weather for November: Maximum temperature, 76°; minimum, 8°; precipitation, 0.27 inch. Precipitation for November, 45-year average, 0.60 inch. Precipitation, January 1 to November 30, 1932, 14.51 inches; 45-year average, 17.48 inches.

HAYS:

The weather during the month was generally fair and dry with little wind and moderate temperatures which have ranged between 6° and 75°. The mean temperature for the month was 39.6 degrees, or 2.4° below normal. Precipitation during the month was 0.12 inch, including 0.70 inch of snow. Conditions were favorable for all kinds of field work throughout the month.

Winter wheat is going into the winter in excellent condition. It has made plenty of growth, and the surface soil is in good condition to prevent blowing. There is sufficient subsoil moisture to carry the wheat without rains for several weeks. There are only a few plots of winter wheat that do not look promising. These are the stubbled-in plots and the plots prepared late. All field work on the project for this season was finished. This included sorghum threshing, corn husking, weighing of stover and moving of same off the plots, and tillage work including plowing and listing, and some cultivation of fallow and row crop stubble ground to prevent blowing during the winter.

GARDEN CITY:

General field work was finished during the past month. Plowing and listing was finished on the dry-land project about November 15 and on the station about December 1. Threshing of sorghums was completed during the first half of November. Wheat is not very promising on the project. Many plots are not all up yet. Most fallow plots seeded to wheat are up to good stands. Wheat is making but very little growth. All but five plots on the dry-land project were seeded with a deep furrow drill. The ground was so dry that an ordinary disk drill would not put the seed down to moist soil. There has been some late seeding by farmers, but very little compared with last year. Soil and weather conditions at this time are very favorable to severe soil blowing next spring. Unless moisture is available shortly, and wheat makes some growth, soil blowing is very likely to be even worse than last spring. Wheat is very little better 200 miles east of here than it is in this immediate locality, though in some localities it has considerable more growth but shows a pronounced lack of moisture. Wind and cold have damaged the crop some, causing it to dry up and present a very much wilted and sickly appearance. Of the approximate acreage seeded this fall, 9,000,000 acres for Kansas, probably 1,500,000 will not be harvested from present indications. Some authorities think the State will not produce much over 60,000,000 bushels if that much.

Maximum temperature, 75°; minimum, 12°; precipitation, 0.14 inch..

DALHART:

The month was characterized by rather open fall weather. This permitted outside work during most of the month and especially during the last two weeks. The outside crops work has now been completed; this includes all threshing, stover weighing, cotton picking, and fall tillage.

Yields of grain sorghums on the rotations were less than average. The average yield for 1932 of all tillage and rotation plots of milo was 17.6 bushels, which is approximately two-thirds of the average yield. The average yield of all the kafir plots was 17.5 bushels. The quality of the grain on many plots was very low. The quality was largely determined by the stage of maturity of the particular plot at the time of frost. A few of the listed plots failed to mature any grain. The late June seeding, which was caused by excessive June rainfall, and frost two weeks earlier than average, contributed to the low quality of the grain. Cowpea yields were lower than average. The low yields of the cowpea plots were caused by the dry weather in August. Cotton yields were much below average.

The winter wheat and winter rye plots on the station are going into the winter in good to excellent condition. The plants on fallow are in excellent condition, but the plants on cropped land show a lack of vigor. Stands on all plots are excellent. Winter rye for a cover crop has made good growth except in the large tree plantings. Much of the winter wheat in this section of the Panhandle is going into the winter badly in need of moisture.

Maximum temperature, 79°; minimum, 17°; precipitation, 0.18 inch.

TUCUMCARI:

Beautiful fall weather throughout November permitted the completion of fall work without interruption. November temperatures and wind movement were normal, but precipitation totaled only 0.03 inch. Precipitation for the year to date is slightly below the 27-year period, but heavy rainfall throughout eastern New Mexico in September gave winter wheat an excellent start, so wheat farmers report good wheat pasture. Cotton picking, sorghum threshing, corn husking, fall plowing, and other late fall work were completed the past month.

Maximum temperature, 79°; minimum, 20°; mean, 47°.

BIG SPRING:

Weather conditions in general during the month of November were very favorable for harvesting and threshing. Only on one occasion was there as much as a trace of precipitation. Temperatures were somewhat below normal for the month. The first frost of the season occurred on Nov. 11, about a week later than the normal date. Although the temperature dropped to 29°, there was no damage to station vegetation. On the night of Nov. 16 a minimum of 16° was recorded, which was the first killing frost of the season. All threshing from the fields was completed during the month; the headed milo plots which are under shelter remain to be threshed. Other work during the month has consisted of heading milo from the increase fields and picking cotton. Sixty head of high grade Hereford calves were received the 1st and laced on preliminary feed until the 21st. At this time they were weighed and divided into four lots as follows:

Lot 1.	Lot 2.	Lot 3.	Lot 4.
whole threshed milo	ground threshed milo	whole milo heads	ground milo heads
cottonseed meal	cottonseed meal	cottonseed meal	cottonseed meal
Sumac fodder	Sumac fodder	Sumac fodder	Sumac fodder
limestone flour	limestone flour	limestone flour	limestone flour

J.M.Jones, Chief of the Animal Husbandry Division of the Texas Experiment Station spent several days here helping start the test.

Maximum temperature, 82°; minimum, 18°; precipitation, trace.

LAWTON:

November weather, with the exception of one period of low temperatures, was very favorable for cotton picking, and about 95 per cent of the crop throughout the county was picked by the first of December. The crop as a whole suffered but little weather damage. Early maturity and favorable weather permitted completion of picking earlier than usual. Yields of lint were considerably above the average, and the quality of the fiber was good. The infestation of boll weevil in this vicinity was the heaviest experienced in many years, and many fields suffered severe damage. All the cotton stalks on the station were cut and burned immediately after the last picking was made early in November. Fall plowing of experimental plots was done November 10 to 18, and other blocks of land that are used for experimental purposes were either plowed or disked at the same time. In most instances the ground was hard and dry, and sharp shares were necessary to do satisfactory work.

A deficiency of slightly more than five inches of rain from September 1 to November 30 left the small grain crops in a rather unsatisfactory winter condition. Wheat and barley fields are spotted, and but few of them afford even a limited amount of grazing. A few fields of wheat, where the land was poorly prepared and the seeding was done rather late, are dead.

Station crops of wheat, winter barley, and winter oats are in fairly good condition. Plant growth of wheat and the first seeding of winter oats and most of the winter barley seedings has been very moderate, but the plants appear to be vigorous and well established in the soil. The second and third seedings of winter oats and the late dates of barley show rather thin stands and but very little growth. These seedings are not in position to withstand a dry, cold winter. Wheat drilled in cotton stalks came up very slowly and unevenly, but finally produced satisfactory stands that present a thrifty appearance.

Maximum temperature, 77°; minimum, 15°; precipitation, 0.08 inch; evaporation, 3.785 inches; wind velocity, varied from 1.9 to 14.6 miles per hour.

WOODWARD:

The weather has been extremely dry since the last of August, 0.41 inch of precipitation was distributed over six dates in September. This left the surface too dry to plant wheat at the usual time late in September. October precipitation was little better, 0.64 inch was received on six dates. However, 0.59 inch of this fell between the 21st and 25th. This moistened the surface, and wheat sowing on the station was rushed and completed in the next few days. Since that time 0.01 inch has fallen. Wheat on the sandier portions of the station and about the county is dying, as a result of the soil drying below the feeding depth of the slightly developed roots and to the action of the shifting sands. Prospects for winter wheat pasture are extremely poor. However the August rains stimulated branching in the sorghums and slowed up their maturing. No killing frost occurred until November 4, so even the branches ripened grain. There is an abundance of forage and grain in the country to feed livestock.

There has been much propaganda in favor of lespedeza's and several were planted. They didn't get high enough to mow and yields were very low. Those planted in the nursery where they were watered every few days gave good returns. Forage is not yet dry enough to weigh. Alfilaria is cut down by sudden cold snaps, but during warm spells starts growing and blooming again. It is hoped this wild plant secured from the Rio Grande region of Texas may prove hardy and be valuable in pastures here.

There was a richer and more prolonged display of color in the various trees and shrubs this fall than is usual. At present the fruits of the barberry, buckthorn, honeysuckle, coralberry, snowberry, soapberry, euonymus, and privet are attractive even though many of the plants are otherwise bare. Several years ago a large number of elms were secured from a local nurseryman which were grown from a tree that was evidently a first generation hybrid. These trees vary extremely in practically all features. It is hoped that some trees of outstanding value may be propagated from these, either by cuttings or by grafting onto Chinese elm stocks. Two year old seedlings of honeylocust grown from seed of trees without thorns, show very few thorns. This is fortunate as the honeylocust is one of the best trees for the southern plains but has been unpopular because of its vicious thorns.

Station work has consisted of harvesting sorghums, peanuts, cotton, husking corn, and making cuttings of evergreens and other ornamentals. Some threshing was done the latter part of the month.

Maximum temperature, 78°; minimum, 9°; precipitation, 0.01 inch.

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NOTE:

Under date of November 30, 1932, P.B.A. Circular No. 218 was issued, reading, as follows:

Valuations on Express Shipments.

"Chief Coordinator's Bulletin No. 107, Supplement No. 1, "Traffic: Shipments by express," which has been already circulated in the Department, contains the following paragraphs:

'a. Release value not exceeding $50.00. When shipments via express are tendered at released value rates, the carrier's liability for loss or damage is limited to an amount not exceeding $50.00, or not exceeding $.50 per pound actual weight, as the case may be. Should the actual value exceed the released or limited valuation, loss, if any, falls upon the shipper.

'b. Value in excess of $50.00. When, in the judgment of a department or establishment making shipments, it would appear to be to the interests of the Government to place a higher valuation than that of the released valuation of $50.00, or not exceeding $.50 per pound actual weight, the value so stated must not exceed the actual, replacement, or recoverable (invoice)value.

'c. The value of the shipments, whether released value not exceeding $50.00 or in excess of $50.00, must be inserted on the bill of lading and marked on the package or packages by the Government representative charged with making the shipment.

'd. When a shipment consists of more than one package the value, released or declared, should be marked on each package as follows: "Value, $_____on X," X representing the number of packages in the shipment.'

'The Railway Express Agency's joint circular to its agents of March 1, 1932, has a paragraph:

'The Government has issued instructions requiring that the value of shipments * * * must be inserted on the bill of lading and marked on the package or packages by the Government representative charged with making the shipment. Agents must require strict compliance with these instructions before accepting shipment.'

"Chief Coordinator's circular letter No. 84 of November 14,1932, quotes a recent complaint of the Railway Express Agency of "continual disregard" on the part of Government officers of the above requirements. Along with this complaint is an announcement that the rule of rejecting unvalued shipments will hereafter be strictly followed.

"To prevent the delays which these rejections would cause, and for the sake also of compliance with reasonable instructions which are to the interest of the Government as well as of the carrier, employees are urged not to overlook the valuation of express shipments in accordance with the paragraphs quoted from Bulletin No. 107. Particular pains should be taken with the bill of lading forms sent vendors for the shipment of purchased material. The valuation should invariably be inserted before the form goes forward, both because this is the function of the Department officer rather than of the vendor and because leaving the valuation to the latter risks its omission."

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